SAINT HELEN'S PARISH
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

12th January 2025

He will Baptise You with the Holy Spirit and Fire

THE WORD THIS WEEK

"Behold, your God!" Isaiah prophesies him; The psalmist praises him; Saint Paul explains his ministry and saving work in us; John baptises him, and the Holy Spirit and the Voice of Heaven mark him out for us to recognise, celebrate, and know deep in our human being, and baptised living, and praying.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: (*Psalter:* Week 1)

Isaiah 40: 1 – 5, 9 – 11.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

Response: **Psalm 103.**

O Lord my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as with a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

On the waters you lay the foundation for your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot;
you ride on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers//
flame and fire your servants.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your creatures.
Vast and wide is the span of the sea//
with its creeping things past counting//
living things great and small.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up;
you open wide your hand, they have their fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;//
you take away their breath, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

Titus 2: 11 – 14, 3: 4 – 7.

He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

Acclamation for the Gospel:
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!
He who is mightier than I is coming, said John.
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia!

Luke 3: 15 – 16. 21 – 22.

When Jesus had been baptised and was praying,
the heavens were opened.

Prayer of the Faithful:
R/. Lord, send forth your Spirit

Preface: of the feast. ***Eucharistic Prayer:*** iii

Acclamation: *"When we eat this bread…"*

MASS AND SERVICES DURING THE WEEK:

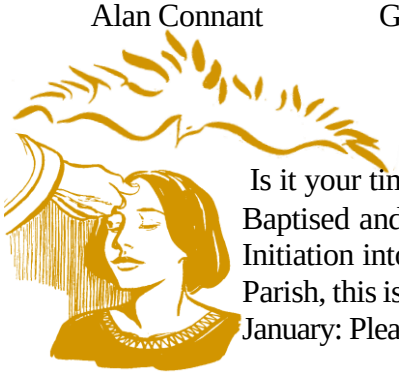
Sat 11th January	**5.30pm**	**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD** Holy Souls (DM)
Sun 12th January	**10.00am** **11.45am**	for the People of the Parish for the People of the Parish (Bargoed)
Mon 13th January	9.45am 10:00am	Morning Prayer of the Church David Mabey (JM)
Tues 14th January	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Joan Gough (SB)
Wed 15th January	9.45am 10.00am 2.00 – 4.00pm	Morning Prayer of the Church Brian Perry (S.V.P) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thurs 16th January	9.45am 10.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church Maria Agius (JC)
Fri 17th January	9.30am	**Saint Anthony,** Abbot Mahoney Family (MC) (*In Saint Helen's School*)
Sat 18th January	**5.30 pm**	**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **'PEACE SUNDAY'** **START OF THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** For the People of the Parish
Sun 19th January	**10.00 am** **11.45 am**	for Peace Gallarotti Family (MG) (Bargoed)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 6.30pm , or at any time by arrangement with the priest.

PARISH PRAYER LIST: In our prayers we are asked to pray for all who are sick, in hospital or at home, the long-term housebound, and also for their carers:

John Maguire, Carol Beech, Sandra & Christopher Bray, Mary Gordine
Pauline Richards, Margaret Jones, Carol Morrissey, Frank Price, Anne Morga
Pat Starynski, Katrin Merry, Albert Carley, Mary Everson, Loraine Cahill
Gwyn + Margaret Bishop, Ann Head, Vi Zadnik, Keith Jones
Katherine Partenie, Dafydd Thomas, Terrence + Sylvia Miles, Mary Brown
Alan Hartley, Edward Dolniak, Johanna + Brian Greenaway, Michael Thomas
Alan Connant, Gina Jenkins



Is it your time to be **CONFIRMED IN FAITH BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?** If you are Baptised and 12 or over, and wish to receive full confirmation and completion of your Christian Initiation into the Church and Confirmation as a practicing and responsible adult member of your Parish, this is your opportunity. We will start looking at the journey to Confirmation on Thursday 23rd January: Please take and return a (red) enrolment form from the rack at the back of church

PROCLAIMERS OF THE WORD and all of us interested in the Word of God shared Sunday by Sunday can find lots of useful reading and resources from the Bishops' Conference Biblical Apostolate in the new Lectionary and Scripture Formation Resource available here: https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/lectionary-scripture-formation-resource/.

Also available a single-sheet list of three useful short refresher videos from Leeds Diocese for the Proclaimers of the Word to pick up from the church porch.

On Sunday morning the **COMMUNION FAMILIES** will take on the ministries of Welcome, Word, and collection and offering, as we explore together the Baptism of Christ, and our own, and what both reveal to us about God's love.

They will gather again in the hall on **TUESDAY, 6.30pm,** to look together at our **BAPTISMAL CALL** into sharing and becoming **THE BODY OF CHRIST** in communion. Please keep them all, children and parents, and the grandparents also rooting for them, in your prayers.

On Monday **The S.V.P**. are away for an **Afternoon of Reflection** together. Please pray for them as they pray through their vision and their ministry to and for the Parish.

The PARISH DEVELOPMENT GROUP meets on zoom on Monday evening, to prepare a parish Stewardship Campaign. Looks like lots of fun! Please pray for them and for all of us that together we may all find the joys of sharing hope and vision.

THE FAMILIES PREPARING TO SHARE IN COMMUNION with their younger members meet in the hall on Tuesday, 6.30pm, to celebrate their Baptism into the Body of Christ.

HEARING LUKE, SHARING GOOD NEWS: Saint Luke is bringing us the Good News of Jesus through this year; each week he will give us a snapshot of an incident from His life and ministry. But how does it all work together, what is the full story like? A chance to read and hear it together on **Wednesday, 7.00pm in the church** (or live-stream) when a company of readers will narrate and take parts telling the tale from cover to cover. Come and share a fascinating, and different, experience of Scripture.

A YEAR OF HOPE: An Introduction to the JUBILEE YEAR: 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? How will the Church be celebrating it? How can I get involved? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more in this lively start to the Jubilee. Hear highlights of how we're celebrating as a church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse.
This Saturday, 18th January, 10:30am-midday, online. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

THE OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY starts on Saturday, with a shared **PRAYER WALK** through, and for, our town starting from Wesley at 2pm.

Next Sunday is **PEACE SUNDAY**, with the theme "**Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace.**" Pope Francis' message for the day speaks of how we must listen to the '***pleas of an endangered humanity***', how the year of Jubilee inspires us to seek the liberating justice of God in our world and how by ***'opening our hearts to our brothers and sisters, we will restore God's justice on earth'*** and ***'move forward to achieve the goal of peace'.***

The MONTHLY PARISH LUNCH – The next Parish Lunch will take place on **Wednesday 22 January** at 1pm. To book your place please sign up on the list at the back of the church.

SAINT HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE – THIS WEEK:

Date	Time	Event
Sun 12th January	11.00 am	Tea, Coffee and Catch-up
Mon 13th January	9.15 am	Parents and Toddlers
	1.30 pm	Sweaty Mamas
	4.30 pm	Fame Factory
	7.00pm	PDG Zoom.
Tues 14th January	10.00 am	Music
	1.30 pm	Art for Beginners
	6.30 pm	Communion Families Prepare
Weds 15thJanuary	9.15am	Parents and Toddlers
	3.30 pm	Taekwondo
	7.00 pm	Reading and Hearing Luke's Gospel (in church)
Thurs 16th January	6.30pm	Singing Group (in Church)
Friday 17th January	9.30am	Mini Athletics
	11.30 am	Street Pastor Trustees
Sat 18thJanuary	9.30 am	Dance
Sun 19th January	11.00 am	Tea, Coffee and Catch-up

COLLECTIONS	4th/5th January	
Gift Aid standing Orders	£ 527.00	
Non Gift-Aided Standing Orders	£ 172.00	
Loose	£ 199.83	
TOTAL	**£ 898.83**	**Thank you**
Crib Offerings	£ 115.15	**Thank you**

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH
Part 1: **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH.**
Section 2**: The Creeds** Chapter Two: **I Believe in Jesus Christ, The Only Son of God**

(449) By attributing to Jesus the divine title "Lord", the first confessions of the Church's faith affirm from the beginning that the power, honour and glory due to God the Father are due also to Jesus, because "he was in the form of God" (*Cf. Acts 2:34 - 36; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13; Revelations 5:13; Philippians 2:6*) and the Father manifested the sovereignty of Jesus by raising him from the dead and exalting him into his glory (*Cf. Romans 10:9; I Corinthians 12:3; Philippians 2:9-11*).

(450) From the beginning of Christian history, the assertion of Christ's lordship over the world and over history has implicitly recognized that man should not submit his personal freedom in an absolute manner to any earthly power, but only to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Caesar is not "the Lord" (*Cf. Revelations 11:15; Mark 12:17; Acts 5:29*). "The Church. . . believes that the key, the centre and the purpose of the whole of man's history is to be found in its Lord and Master." (*Gaudium et Spes 10 # 3; Cf. 45 # 2*) *Catechism of the Catholic Church 1992*

Parish Directory **Priest:** Revd. John Kelly 20 883192
Safeguarding Officer: cmben@hotmail.com **SVP:** 07704 292 945 **Hall Bookings:** 07533 082601
Bereavement support: 20863450 **Music:** 07971848734. **Piety shop:** 0777659744
CAFOD: 07726968374 / 07791318809 **Marriage Care:** appointments@marriagecare.co.uk
Saint Helen's School: 20852532 **Cardinal Newman School:** 01443 494110
email: **caerphilly@rcadc.org** Website: **www.sthelenscaerphilly.com**

Saint Helen is a Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, a Registered Charity, No. 117727

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and
the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

Franciscus

Working for justice can become a way to justify ourselves before God. If we are not careful, the good work we give ourselves to can become another idol that takes the rightful place of Jesus. We must be on guard against the temptation to establish an identity outside of the love of God in Christ.
If we don't live from the centre of God's love, working for justice can be just another creative way to meet the unrelenting needs of our egos. When that happens, the work for justice is no longer about the poor and mistreated but about our own unmet needs.
We work for justice not because it justifies us; rather, because we've been justified, we work for justice. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he instructed them to say, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Is that not love? Is that not justice? To pray these words is not to passively say, "Lord, there's nothing we can do, so please fix this world." Rather, the Lord's Prayer calls us to say, "Lord, there's so *much* we can do, but only ever in your power."

Rich Villodas, *Good and Beautiful and Kind: Becoming Whole in a Fractured World*

Jubilee for Armed Forces, Police and Security personnel

Pope Francis invites us to let our faith inform our service as the troubles in the world increase. If you work in the Armed Forces, the Police or in Security in general we would like to invite you to a Jubilee Mass taking place at St Joseph's Co-cathedral, Convent Street, Swansea on Saturday 8th February at 11:00am. The Mass will be celebrated by Rt. Rev Tom Burns, Retired Bishop of Menevia and former Bishop of the Forces. If you wish to join us as a pilgrim of hope on your Jubilee day, please email Fr Michael Doyle (michael.doyle@rcadc.org) by Friday 24th January.

If you are a veteran or retired police officer and would like to support those in service with your prayers, you are most welcome to join also. Please let Fr. Michael know.